

Fall 2015

Get Outdoors PA *Highlights*



Get Outdoors PA is a joint initiative among community and statewide partners committed to connecting Pennsylvania residents and visitors to the outdoors through fun, healthy and educational outdoor activities.



Get Outdoors PA strives to connect citizens with outdoor recreation activities to increase their appreciation and active use of parks, forests and public spaces while imparting a message of environmental stewardship and healthy living.

Get Outdoors PA Grows

Get Outdoors PA is a partnership of state agencies, state-wide and community organizations, and recreation departments—all committed to providing outdoor recreation learning events in the communities they serve.

In 2004, Get Outdoors PA was established as a way to expand recreational programming in state parks and connect people to the outdoors in a meaningful way.

In 2013, Get Outdoors PA officially expanded beyond state parks and into communities across Pennsylvania to bring outdoor experiences closer to where people live.

Over a thousand events and programs are offered, state-wide and year-round, to help promote interest in a variety of outdoor activities, including hiking, fishing, hunting, camping and biking.



These low-cost high-quality recreation outings with experienced trip leaders are intended to increase participants' appreciation and active use of our parks and forests while imparting messages of environmental stewardship and healthy living.



PA Parks & Forests Foundation

Get Outdoors PA Expands to 101 Community Partners



PA Game Commission

Program Highlights

Partner Power

- Get Outdoors PA has 101 community partners—including over 40 park and recreation departments and over 40 trail and conservation organizations.
- Since its launch in 2014, Get Outdoors PA partnership has grown significantly, expanding outdoor recreation opportunities to all regions of the state.
- Community partners offer over 1,200 Get Outdoors PA programs, statewide, annually.
- Community partners recognize the value of collaboration and actively seek non-profit, private-sector and governmental partners.

Quality Programming

- Get Outdoors PA events offer participants a variety of benefits, including learning basic to advanced skills in outdoor activities, connecting with other outdoor enthusiasts, and discovering new outdoor places.
- Get Outdoors PA, in an effort to improve and expand recreational programming across the state, offers a variety of educational opportunities to recreation providers including webinars and training sessions.
- The Get Outdoors PA Mini-Grant Program was unveiled in 2015. The program provides Get Outdoors PA Community Partners up to 50% of training and/or equipment costs related to improving outdoor programming (not to exceed \$3,000). Ten projects were awarded in June 2015, totaling \$14,000.
- The Partner Portal at GetOutdoorsPA.org offers a variety of recreation and health-based resources including programmatic best management practices and sample lesson plans.

Outreach & Awareness

- GetOutdoorsPA.org is the website for promoting Pennsylvania outdoor recreational events.
- Community partners receive a monthly email entitled *Get Outdoors PA Partner News* which provides helpful resources like grant deadlines, resources and ideas.
- Outdoor enthusiasts may sign up for *Get Outdoors PAthfinder*, a monthly e-newsletter that offers interesting insight on the world of outdoor recreation plus featured Get Outdoors PA events.
- Get Outdoors PA promotional materials, including posters, trading cards, business cards and stickers, are available to community partners.
- Get Outdoors PA is on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Pinterest.



to GetOutdoorsPA.org to learn more, access partner resources, get updates, become a community partner and find outdoor events.



Bill Metzger uses a hand crank bike to traverse a stretch of the Great Allegheny Passage in Ohio State Park.

PA Parks & Forests Foundation



A birder at Bake Oven Knob Hawk Nest.

Lehigh Gap Nature Center

Top-Notch Outdoor Programs

“Our partnership with Get Outdoors PA has allowed us to network with professionals from organizations that share our mission of providing top-notch outdoor programs and facilities to the residents of Pennsylvania. The recent mini grant award will help us to purchase much needed equipment to expand our programs and the various webinars have refreshed our creativity and kept us up-to-date regarding industry standards and best practices.”

Tammy Agesen
Lancaster County Parks Department



A Lancaster County naturalist guides participants of all ages on a nature hike.

“The Partnership for Better Health co-hosts a free 6-week walking series with the Carlisle Parks & Recreation Department. The walks feature trails from our Simply Moving guide. The people who attend the walking series like the socialization of walking with others and are uneasy about going out in remote areas on their own. They like the group aspect while getting introduced to new trails and people.”

Gail Witwer
Partnership for Better Health



An Excellent Resource

“Get Outdoors PA has been an excellent resource for Let’s Go Outdoors and a great organization that we can refer our participants to! We love the ability to post events on the website, collaborate with others for ideas and check out new ideas, information, and activities that others are having. People who stop by our table love the trading card facts and kids love the stickers. One of our participants said, “This is really great and it is nice to be able to see what is happening across the state! It makes me want to get outdoors more!”

Keisha Scovens
Let’s Go Outdoors



A family enjoys a snowy outdoor adventure hosted by Let’s Go Outdoors, a Get Outdoors PA partner focused on getting minorities outdoors and into nature.

Many Thanks

“The Millbrook Marsh Nature Center was awarded a \$1,500 matching grant to assist with equipment for its introductory kayaking programs. These programs will be held in the controlled environment of Welch Community Swimming Pool to provide a safe setting for new kayakers to get comfortable with and learn how to safely use the boats. Many thanks to the Get Outdoors PA Mini-Grant for making this program possible.”

Melissa Freed
Centre Region Parks & Recreation



Centre Region, thanks in part to a Get Outdoors PA mini-grant, will offer additional kayak training and programming.

“As an avid hiker, I love the opportunity to find new trails, meet new people and learn more about our natural surroundings. I learn something new every time I attend one of ClearWater Conservancy’s Adventures in Conservation and I often take my friends out to the new places I’ve discovered through these events.”

Susan Braun
Get Outdoors PA program participant



One, United and Strong, Voice

“Being a Get Outdoors PA partner means promoting healthy, outdoor recreational opportunities with one, united and strong, voice. Sharing our public paddling and bicycling events along the Susquehanna River using GOPA’s online tools is easy and impactful. The Partner Portal has been a useful resource as we consider hosting new types of events and provides forms, tools, and experiences shared by other partners. If you’re looking for one-stop-shopping to find outdoor events across the state, Get Outdoors PA has you covered!”

Erin Pierce
Susquehanna Greenway Partnership



Susquehanna Greenway Partnership’s annual sojourn attracted 75 participants in 2014; the event contributed an estimated \$14,000 to the local economy through the purchase of goods and services.



Philadelphia Parks & Recreation

Get Outdoors PA Goals

- connect people with the outdoors through Pennsylvania’s public lands;
- inspire environmental conservation, stewardship and healthy living;
- encourage physical activity through outdoor recreation;
- deliver quality outdoor recreation opportunities to the public through best practice models;
- increase the number of quality outdoor recreation programs in Pennsylvania;
- develop public-private partnerships encouraging economic growth in a sustainable way;



Susquehanna Greenway Partnership

Get Outdoors PA Community Partners

Abington Area Joint Recreation Board	Friends of Canoe Creek State Park	Penn Township
Abington Friends School	Gettysburg Area Recreation Authority	Perkasie Borough
Abington Parks and Recreation	Greater Johnstown Adventure Club	Philadelphia Parks and Recreation
Allegheny Land Trust	HJP Park and Open Space Commission	Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy
Anthracite Outdoor Adventure Area	Hampden Township Parks and Recreation	Plymouth Township Parks and Recreation
Appalachian Mountain Club	Haverford Township Parks and Recreation	Pocono Environmental Education Center
Appalachian Trail Conservancy	Hawk Mountain Sanctuary	Pocono Heritage Land Trust
Berks Conservancy	Hollow Oak Land Trust	Quiet Valley Living Historical Farm
Berks County Parks and Recreation Department	Kittatinny Coalition	Rail Trail Council of Northeast PA
Blue Mountain Recreation Commission	Lacawac Sanctuary and Field Station	Ridgway Main Street Program
Brentwood Borough	Lackawanna Heritage Valley	Riverfront Parks Committee
Brodhead Watershed Association	Lancaster County Department of Parks and Recreation	Ross Township Parks and Recreation Department
Bucks County Conservation District	Lehigh Gap Nature Center	Saint Joseph’s University Adventure Club
Buffalo Valley Recreation Authority	Let’s GO Outdoors	Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education
Carbon County Environmental Education Center	Live Well Luzerne (Wilkes-Barre YMCA)	Shaver’s Creek Environmental Center
Central PA Conservancy	Manada Conservancy	Silver Spring Twp Parks and Recreation Department
Centre Region Parks and Recreation Authority	Manheim Township	Spring Garden Township
Chester County Facilities and Parks Department	Marshall Township	Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve
ClearWater Conservancy	Meadville Area Recreation Complex	Stroud Region Open Space and Recreation Commission
Council on Greenways and Trails	Merrill Linn Land and Waterways Conservancy	Susquehanna Greenway Partnership
Cranberry Township Parks and Recreation Department	Monroe County Conservation District	Swatara Watershed Association
Crystal Lake Ski Center	Mount Pleasant Borough	The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County
Cumberland County	Muhlenberg Township Park and Recreation Department	Titusville Trail Town Action Committee
Dauphin County Parks and Recreation	Murrysville Recreation Department	Township of Spring Parks and Recreation Department
Delaware Highlands Conservancy	Natural Lands Trust	Upper Dublin Township
Delaware Valley Orienteering Association	Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art	Venture Outdoors
Derry Twp Department of Parks and Recreation	Newtown Township Parks and Recreation	Warwick Regional Recreation Commission
Downingtown Area Recreation Consortium	Norristown Farm Park	Washington County Department of Parks and Recreation
East Berlin Area Community Center	North Branch Land Trust	West End Park and Open Space Commission
East Goshen Township	Northcentral PA Conservancy	Western PA Orienteering Club
East Hanover Township	Northern Lebanon Recreation and Parks Commission	Whitpain Township
Endless Mountain Heritage Region	Ohio River Trail Council	Wildlands Conservancy
Fern Hollow Nature Center	Ohio Township	Women’s Care Center of Erie County
	Paddle without Pollution	
	Partnership for Better Health	

Get Outdoors PA



Get Outdoors PA Flagship Partners



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